

Why are we doing this?

We are doing it because we are celebrating our faith and our history which are so intricately intertwined.

We know, from scientific research, that there were total eclipses of the sun in what we now call Israel and Palestine in both 29AD and 33AD. Either one of these could be the event referred to in Matthew 27:45 when the sky turned black, but 29AD is the most likely.

Pontius Pilate was the Roman Prefect of Judea from 26-36AD. Herod Antipas ruled from 4BC to 39AD. Caiaphas was High Priest from 18-36AD. These three men are referenced in non-biblical sources and all are mentioned in the account of Jesus's death and resurrection in the Bible. It is amazing how academic research, far from refuting the Bible, aids proof of its authenticity.

Tracing our family tree back around eighty generations would bring us to the time of Jesus. The world was very different then but it was also very much the same. Families still gathered to celebrate births, marriages, deaths and religious festivals. People travelled for family, business and leisure regions. There was still a great divide between rich and poor. Kings, Emperors and other leaders tried to exert their power over other nations. In many ways the first century was no different to the twenty-first. As Charles Dickens might have said '*It was the best of times, it was the worst of times*'.

We are undertaking this journey to help us understand more about the first Easter, more about our faith, more about Jesus and more about our role in the world today.

We invite you to join us in this journey, either in person, at home, or wherever you are. If you are participating elsewhere than at Zion please read the passage of Scripture, then sit quietly and ask God to reveal to you the relevance of that passage for us and for our church.

Some of the gatherings in the Church and the Secret Garden will include dramatization of the readings, visual representation of the story and congregational participation to enhance our understanding of this momentous time in human history, then and now.



Zion United Reformed Church Northallerton

NINE DAYS IN JERUSALEM



In Holy Week and Easter at Zion we are going to walk in the footsteps of Jesus from his arrival in Jerusalem through his Temple discourses, the Last Supper and his execution to his glorious resurrection. We will explore the historical setting of this life-changing week in world history and try to discover how it helps us in our faith journey today.

Each day there will be an opportunity to gather for worship, either in the Secret Garden or in the church building. If you prefer you can join the journey at home, or wherever you happen to be.

Saturday 9 April 11am-11.15am in the Secret Garden

Jesus Anointed By Mary
led by Ian based on John 12:1-8
and with dramatic representation

Sunday 10 April 10am-11am in the Church

Jesus is welcomed into Jerusalem
led by Ian based on Luke 19:28-40
There will be an opportunity to make Palm
branches on arrival at church which will be
used in worship
Distribution of Palm Crosses

Monday 11 April 11am-11.15am in the Secret Garden

Jesus Reclaims The Temple
led by Iris based on Luke 19:41-48
and with dramatic representation

Tuesday 12 April 11am-11.15am in the Secret Garden

Jesus' Authority for Teaching
led by Lesley based on Luke 20:1-8

Wednesday 13 April 11am-11.15am in the Secret Garden

Jesus' Death Is Planned
led by Ian based on Luke 21:37-22:6
and with dramatic representation

Thursday 14 April 7pm-7.45pm in the Church



Jesus Shares A Meal
led by Ian telling the story based on Luke 22:1-46, Matthew 26:20-46 & John 13:1-13
Café Style Worship with Communion.
Light snacks & drinks will be available
If participating at home use Luke 22:14-30

Bedtime at Home

Jesus Is Arrested
Personal reflection based on Luke 22:47-56

Friday 15 April 11am-11.35am in the Church

Hot Cross Buns available from 10.45am

Jesus is Tried & Executed
led by Ian with Iris telling the story based on
Luke 22:54-23:49

Distribution of nails

if participating at home use Luke 23:32-49

11.45am from the Auction Mart Car Park

One Northallerton Walk of Witness

12noon at the Market Cross

One Northallerton Good Friday Witness

Evening at Home (*Dusk would be a good time*)

Jesus is Buried

Personal reflection based on Luke 23:50-56

Saturday 16 April 11am-11.15am in the Secret Garden

A Day Without Jesus

led by Ian based on Matthew 27:62-66

Sunday 17 April 10am-11am in the Church

Jesus Is Alive!

led by Ian based on Luke 24:1-12

A celebration for all ages with Communion

Distribution of chocolate eggs

Evening at Home (*Dusk would be a good*

time) Jesus Meets His Followers

Personal reflection based on Luke 24:13-35



In the event of inclement weather the gatherings scheduled for the Secret Garden will be moved to the Church.

